

October 2, 2001

RECEIVED

OCT 10 2001

Carol Hanlon  
S&ER Products Manager  
U. S. Department of Energy  
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office  
P.O. Box 30307 M/S 025  
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0707

Dear Sir or Madam:

I have reviewed the Yucca Mountain Preliminary Site Suitability Evaluation report and recommend that the Secretary for the Department of Energy should proceed with recommending the site to the President for long term storage of high-level radioactive waste.

As citizens we seek assurances that everything is *completely* safe. In reality, that goal is unattainable. As with nearly all things in life, there is no guarantee. I believe the goal should be to seek the *safest possible* storage configuration given our current technology. I believe the Yucca Mountain Site provides the safest storage location for our radioactive waste.

As a scientist, I know that we can use statistical models to "predict" the future performance of a given design. We can also calculate the probability of winning the lottery or dying from a airplane flight using a similar statistical model. In reviewing the statistical models for Yucca Mountain, I find staggeringly small probabilities, of a system failure.

The current storage locations for high-level waste, were not designed to serve as the safest locations. Spent fuel pools and dry cask storage sites are numerous. The likelihood of attack by nature or human is very high since engineering controls can not be implemented at so many diffuse sites. What we need is a "Fort Knox" for radioactive waste to guard the public safety and ensure non-proliferation.

I believe the time has come to make a decision, even if it is an unpopular one. Increased security is currently on the mind of every citizen. It is now time to act swiftly and decisively. The decision to use Yucca mountain, has not been made in haste. The best minds in the entire world have studied the problem for nearly 20 years. Yucca Mountain has emerged as the safest possible storage configuration. By not acting on this finding, we remain vulnerable to much more real threats in our lifetimes, than anything postulated for future generations.

Sincerely,



Greg Jones  
Certified Health Physicist